

**Abstract 196**

**TITLE:** Developing A Comprehensive Community-Level Intervention For Young Men Who Have Sex With Men: The City

**AUTHORS:** Guenther-Grey, C; Sumartojo, E., (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

**ISSUE:** HIV incidence remains high among young men who have sex with men (YMSM), particularly YMSM of color. While community-level interventions to reduce HIV risk behaviors have been evaluated and found effective for gay men, comprehensive, community-level approaches have not been tested with various racial/ethnic groups of YMSM. The Community Intervention Trial for Youth (CITY) will evaluate the effectiveness of a comprehensive community-level intervention in reducing HIV-related risk behaviors among YMSM aged 15-25.

**SETTING:** The CDC-funded CITY Project is a national study that includes 13 communities in cities across the U. S. and focuses on African-American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic /Latino, and white YMSM. In intervention communities, research teams will work with community-based organizations (CBOs), youth steering committees, community advisory groups and other partners to develop and implement the intervention based upon a common protocol.

**PROJECT:** Research teams in each intervention city have conducted formative research and established relationships with community partners who will collaborate in implementing the intervention. The 3-year intervention will draw upon previously evaluated HIV prevention interventions and other health promotion methods. In each intervention community, YMSM will be recruited into a Community Health Advisor Network (CHAN). These Community Health Advisors will serve as opinion-leaders among YMSM peers and will: 1)help link YMSM to HIV prevention services; 2) serve as advocates for HIV prevention; and 3)assist the other community partners in the implementation of additional intervention components (i.e., social marketing, social events with an HIV prevention component, ant small group skills-building activities). Research teams will work with CBO partners and the CIAN to increase the capacity to implement and sustain programs beyond the study period. Evaluation data will be collected through field interviews of YMSM in May-August 1999 and in the following three summers. Intervention activities will begin in October 1999.

**RESULTS:** Formative research suggests that study communities vary in the number and capacity of CITY community: collaborators to conduct intervention activities. Thus the nature of relationships between community partners and the research teams, the size of the **CHAN**, and its role in implementing other intervention components will vary by community. In addition, cultural differences among YMSM of various race/ethnic groups and regions of the country suggest that intervention messages and materials must be carefully tailored locally.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** To accommodate the differences across communities, common processes and decision-steps with be used to develop and implement the intervention components.

**PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Carolyn Guenther-Grey

**Address:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road MS E-37  
Atlanta, GA 30329

**Telephone:** (404) 639-1908

**Fax:** (404) 639-1950

**E-mail:** cygb@cdc.gov